

**MINUTES OF GARRETT SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT
SUPERVISORS' MEETING**

January 15, 2019

District Office

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman George Bishoff. With only one other supervisor, Smokey Stanton, in attendance no official business was transacted. Also in attendance were Cameron Crawford, Carrie Colebank, Chad Bucklew, and Shaun Sanders.

The following report of state funds for the month of December 2018 was presented for informational purposes only.

Balance – December 1, 2018	\$4,328.838
Receipts – December 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018	0.00
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	\$ 4,328.86
Expenditures – December 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018	171.87
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Balance – December 31, 2018.....	\$ 4,156.99

Election of offices for calendar year 2019 was postponed till a quorum was present.

Shaun read a letter from Craig Neilson in follow up to his 11/5/18 phone call. Craig said he must defer to MDEs position on the question of ownership and referenced a 1956 agreement with U.S Department of Agriculture where the District agreed to maintain the dams.

Shaun reported that the District had not received a reply from NRCS state office concerning the Districts 10/3/18 letter to Allan Stahl. Allan called Shaun on the phone and indicated he and other state office personnel were planning to meet with NRCS national headquarters staff (Steve Durgin) to discuss the MDE directive from Scott Bass dated 9/5/18. However, Allan is retiring at the end of December and nothing in writing has been received. Shaun will initiate contact with the acting state engineer.

Shaun gave an update concerning the Districts attempts to contact the land owner (William Meagher) adjacent to No. 2 Dam. No response was received to the email sent on November 29, 2018 so a certified letter was sent on 1/7/19. To date, the receipt has not been returned to confirm delivery of the letter. It was decided to allow some more time before taking further action at this point.

Smokey suggested that the States Attorney and the County Attorney be contacted to inquire if they would represent the District in enforcing the easements on the PL-566 dams. Shaun expressed his belief that this issue is not something that would come under the purview of either office but he would follow up.

Discussion took place concerning the No-Till Drill account and the FUNB Value Money Market Account. George and Smokey agreed the District should transfer \$50,000.00 from the existing

No-Till Drill account to the Business Value Money Market Account at FUMB&T. Official action on this transfer was postponed till a quorum is present.

Shaun reported that he received the notice for the Fiscal Year 2020 County budget season. Again the County is asking departments to do whatever it takes to operate under a flat budget where and whenever possible. However it was decided that the District should request the county to match what MDA provides in the CBTF grant for administrative support. This will mean requesting \$22,393 instead of \$19,706. Also, it was decided to request the County to grant the District "in kind" support in the form of free office space for the one District employee. This would equate to about \$2,373.31 based on current billing of 157.8 sq. ft. X \$15.78 per sq. ft.

Discussion took place concerning the long term problem of Garrett County Farm Bureau and Extension Service not providing three nominees from their respective organizations for a SCD board member. It was decided to invite both organizations to the next meeting to discuss the issue.

Chad presented the Field Activities report for the past month. He notified the Board that NRCS was operating as 'Business as Usual', despite the partial federal government shutdown. The NRCS offices have been open throughout the shutdown, and NRCS seems to have operating funds to do so through the end of January. Chad mentioned that the Farm Service Agency staff were furloughed as of December 31st, 2018. Chad mentioned that a new Farm Bill was signed by the President a few days prior to the shutdown. One item of note is that mandatory funding for wildlife habitat EQIP applications is increasing to 10 percent in the new Farm Bill. The allocation was 5% in the previous version of the Farm Bill. A deadline date for new EQIP applications of February 15th is expected to be publicly announced in the next few days. Chad mentioned that there was a meeting held at the State Office on January 10th to discuss funding for Golden Winged Warbler, Cerulean Warbler, and general forestry. Staff from several partner agencies were in attendance. Chad informed the Board that there has not yet been a candidate panel returned from Human Resources for the Garrett NRCS Soil Conservation Technician position. Chad informed the Board that Amy Albright, the Soil Conservationist in Allegany County, will be taking another job on January 20th. Chad discussed the impacts of helping cover Allegany in Amy's absence. Chad also stated that he would be attending the February MASCD meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15.